

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08 AGR-20 AF-10

DRC-01 CIEP-02 SAB-01 /131 W
----- 089063

R 130904Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8491

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0129

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO SCHLESINGER AND FORD STATEMENTS

1. KUWAIT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE REACTED VIGOROUSLY IN PRESS TO WHAT THEY INTERPRET AS THREATS BY SCHLESINGER AND FORD TO ATTACK ARAB OIL INSTALLATIONS AND CUT OFF ARAB FOOD SUPPLIES. MDEIA CARRIED STATEMENT JAN. 10 BY FOREIGN MINISTER SAYING KUWAIT HAS TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST POSSIBLE AMERICAN INTERVENTION BY SURROUNDING ITS OIL FIELDS WITH EXPLOSIVES. THIS FOLLOWS DEFENSE MINISTER STATEMENT FEW DAYS AGO SAYING

KUWAIT WOULD BLOW UP OIL PIPES IF THREATENED WITH INVASION, AMERICAN OR OTHER.

2. KUWAIT PRESS, NEVER NOTED FOR RESTRAINT, HAS ALSO BEEN PARTICULARLY SHRILL IN CONDEMNING AMERICAN "THREATS", DAILY NEWS ADITORIAL JAN. 9, WITH ARABIC VERSION IN RAI AL-AAM, IS TYPICAL: "THIS NEW THREAT TO CUT FOOD SUPPLIES ... UNCOVERS THE TRUE NATURE OF THE MORALITY OF AMERICAN POLICY AND THE LOW LEVEL OF ITS CRITERIA OF

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VALUES. FOR INSTEAD OF EXPRESSING THEIR SENSE OF GUILT

TOWARDS THE ARABS, PARTICULARLY THE PALESTINE ISSUE,
AND INSTEAD OF APPRECIATING THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO AS A
LAWFUL MEASURE AGAINST THEIR POLICY, THOSE IN POSITIONS
OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE U.S. HAVE EMBARKED ON
MAKING THREATS OF OCCUPATION, OF CUTTING OFF FOOD
SUPPLIES, ETC."
LISLE

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NNN

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